

JAN 23 2008

60,469-403 PUS1
PA-000.04416-US-AREMARKS

In addition to the Request for Reconsideration filed earlier today, Applicants present the correction to claim 27 above to address the objection made by the Examiner because claim 27 previously depended from cancelled claim 24. Claim 27 now depends from claim 22. No new issues are raised by that change and the amendment should be entered.

In addition to the reasons why the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on the *Nichols* reference must be withdrawn presented in the Request for Reconsideration, there is another reason why the rejection must be withdrawn. This application is a divisional of application serial number 09/218,989, which was filed on December 22, 1998. Therefore, the *Nichols* reference does not qualify as prior art against this application.

There is no possible ground of rejection based on the *Nichols* reference and the *Mardis* reference expressly teaches that it does not allow any slippage in a manner corresponding to how the claimed arrangement works. The *Mardis* reference has to allow some slippage corresponding to the operation of the claimed arrangement in order for there to be even a possibility of finding a basis for a *prima facie* case of anticipation based on that reference. The express teaching that there is no slippage in that reference precludes any possibility of anticipation.

This case is clearly in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Request for Reconsideration, relative to Application Serial No. 10/684,171, is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on January 23, 2008.


David Gaskey